



October 20, 2010

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309 Diablo Rd.
Danville, CA 94526

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Supervisor Mike McGowan
625 Court Street, Room 204
Woodland, CA 95695

Supervisor Larry Ruhstaller
222 East Weber Ave.
Courthouse, Room 701
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Supervisors:

Thank you and your staffs for joining me and several principals from the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Steering Committee last Friday for a joint briefing on BDCP and related Delta efforts, and exploration of the ways in which the Delta Counties could become more actively engaged in the process. As described at the meeting, many details of the BDCP are the subject of energetic discussion at its Steering Committee meetings as the planning process iterates towards a public review draft plan in spring 2011. As discussed last week, we recognize and respect the unique and important status of the Delta Counties in the development and implementation of the BDCP. There are several venues for participation that would be suitable and effective through which the Counties could engage substantively on BDCP issues affecting their interests. They include:

Delta County Issue Group:

This would entail a series of meetings as needed among Delta Counties representatives individually or collectively and senior BDCP participants from the state and federal government, water contractors, the conservation community, and others as desired. These meetings would focus on those documents that are scheduled for discussion at future Steering Committee meetings and that may affect the Counties' interests, and any longstanding concerns that remain unaddressed.

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>

Baldwin Hills Conservancy • California Coastal Commission • California Coastal Conservancy • California Conservation Corps • California Tahoe Conservancy • Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy • Colorado River Board of California • Delta Protection Commission • Delta Stewardship Council • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation
Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation • Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery • Department of Water Resources
Energy Resources, Conservation & Development Commission • Native American Heritage Commission • Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy • San Diego River Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission • San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy • San Joaquin River Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • State Lands Commission • Wildlife Conservation Board



Interested Observer of BDCP Steering Committee:

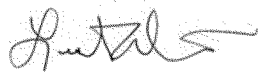
Delta Counties could participate on the Steering Committee as Interested Observers pursuant to section 7.4.1 in the Planning Agreement, the same manner in which the Delta Stewardship Council has engaged in the process. This status would not require the Delta Counties to execute the Planning Agreement, but afford an opportunity to sit at the table and engage in a dialogue with other Steering Committee members as documents are brought to the committee for review and direction.

Member of the BDCP Steering Committee:

Delta Counties could execute the Planning Agreement and become members of the Steering Committee. Execution of the Planning Agreement would not connote support for any individual elements of the Plan, however representatives of the Delta Counties would be required not to revisit planning and policy decisions nor impede progress of the draft plan. Participation with these stipulations recognizes the future role of the Delta Counties' as permittees of certain conservation actions contemplated in the plan.

My staff will be contacting your offices in the next day to better understand the preferences of the Counties so that we may accommodate them as expeditiously as possible. Thank you again for your ongoing efforts to engage collaboratively with the Natural Resources Agency to create a more sustainable Delta – one that recognizes its importance to all Californians. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-5656 anytime.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Secretary for Natural Resources

cc: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior
Jim Provenza, Yolo County Supervisor, District 4